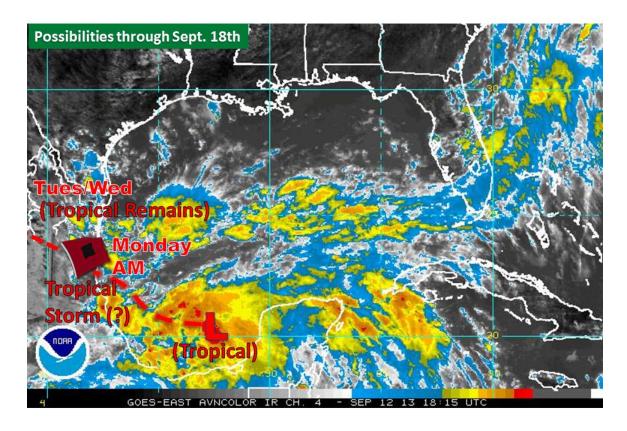
# September 12<sup>th</sup> Update: Southwest Gulf Activity and Potential Impacts for the Rio Grande Valley



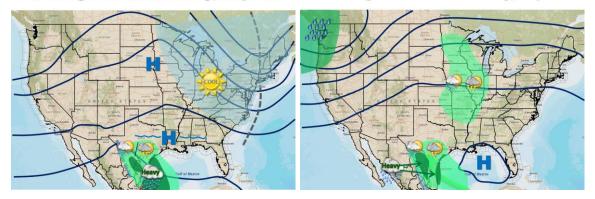
Above: Tropical low pressure as of 115 PM, and possible slow track through "landfall" (Monday thereabouts), possibly as a tropical storm (details coming within the next 24 hours). Further slow movement into southwest Tamaulipas/southern Nuevo Leon is possible as a remnant low through next Wednesday. Update: The low pressure was officially designated Tropical Depression #10 at 4 PM CDT September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### The Skinny

- Disturbance moved into the Bay of Campeche and is slowly developing as Tropical Depression #10.
- Depression is forecast to strengthen to a Tropical Storm by Friday, and continue as such through landfall (above). Keep tuned to our Facebook page or <a href="http://hurricanes.gov">http://hurricanes.gov</a> for details.
- Atmospheric steering setup is coming into focus. High Pressure Ridge will maintain across Texas while building east and west through the weekend.
- The core of the ridge will slide east and lose a little influence to the west, allowing a slight northwest movement of the system late Sunday and Monday
- Odds are increasing the the center will cross the coast somewhere from southern Tamaulipas to northern Veracruz.
- The center should never be your focus! <u>Impacts</u> from the cyclone are; those come next.

#### Steering Pattern Monday, Sep. 16

#### Steering Pattern Wednesday, Sep. 18



Above: General steering flow as event unfolds. Subtropical high pressure (blue H) is expected to "ridge" back across Texas, ensuring the core of any developing cyclone will move into east central Mexico between southern Tamaulipas and northern Veracruz. By September 18th, the remnants may get hung up in deep, efficient southeast flow and become very favorable for large rainfall totals in the lee of the Sierra Madre (Sept. 16-18 or longer).

#### **Hazards and Potential Impact**

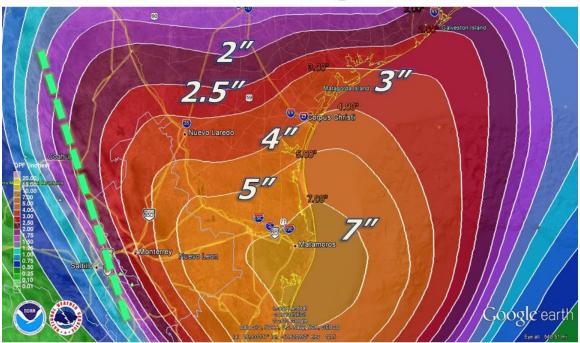
#### Rain:

- Scattered showers Saturday afternoon/evening become numerous Sunday and continue Monday. Continued very moist flow and rising motion behind the decaying system inland will keep scattered to numerous showers/thunderstorms going through at least Wednesday.
- Rainfall totals (best forecast, average for area): Event 3 to 6+ inches Lower Valley, 2 to 5+ inches elsewhere.
- Should these rainfall totals materialize:
  - oThe region will be above the *monthly average* (3.5 inches west, 6 inches east).
  - Partial month totals (through Sept. 18) could be as high as a foot (12 inches) in several locations, mainly Cameron County
  - The current Severe to Exceptional Drought would be improved by at least one category within the next two weeks. We'll still be in long term drought; there's plenty of rain deficit to recover.

#### Impact/To Do Now:

- Nuisance urban flooding where concentrated rain falls. In areas currently saturated and with poor drainage, life and property could be threatened and water levels could reach 3 feet (level of "flash" flooding).
- Clear drainage ditches, canals of debris; cut grasses and remove items that may cut off sewer access. Residents of poor drainage areas: Consider moving items above the floor between now and Saturday, just in case.
- Some pastures may flood, especially those which have received more than 4" so far this month and are under heavier bands. Be prepared to move livestock to higher ground.

## Forecast Rainfall Sep. 13-19 2013



\*Note: Does not include potentially much higher amounts along the Sierra Madre (green dashed line).

#### **Coastal and Gulf:**

- Surf: Rising to "head height" by Saturday afternoon, and likely to reach or exceed 8 feet Sunday and Monday, with slow subsidence Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Rip Currents: Most dangerous Saturday when there could be morning sunshine and folks may give the coast a window to swim. When rips are worst (Sunday/Monday), only experienced surfers should be in the water. No exceptions.
- Tides: Rising to 1 foot or more above predicted in Laguna Madre Bay by Sunday, 1 to 2 feet on the beach. Run-up to the dunes as early as Saturday morning high tide; run-up into the dunes Sunday and Monday morning. Expect public beaches to be inaccessible as early as Saturday, but most likely Sunday and Monday and possibly Tuesday. Official closures are likely.
- Offshore seas: Rising to or above 9 feet as early as Saturday evening, continuing through Monday. 12 foot seas are possible if the cyclone grows. Swell periods will reach 10 seconds or higher as early as Saturday.
- Offshore winds: From the east increasing to 20 knots Saturday, 20 to 25 knots Saturday night, and 25 knots with higher gusts Sunday and Monday. Stronger winds in discrete showers....gusts could reach gale force late Sunday and Monday.

#### Impact/To Do Now:

- Poor swimmers should not enter the water beginning Saturday.
- More advanced swimmers should wear a life jacket or bring a boogie board with strap into the water. Conditions will deteriorate for better swimmers by late Saturday.
- Postpone any offshore fishing trips from late Saturday through Tuesday; Laguna conditions should remain fair Saturday but deteriorate Sunday.
- Do not plan to drive vehicles on public beaches after Friday.

#### Reservoirs

- Cross your Fingers: This could be the storm we've hoped for. Potential exists
  for more than a foot of rain in the foothills/upslope region of the Sierra Madre
  Oriental, with flows down the Rio Salado and other tributaries toward Falcon
  Reservoir beginning late next week and continuing through the end of
  September.
- Stay tuned for later forecasts after collaboration with partners at NWS West Gulf River Forecast Center, International Boundary and Water Commission, and others, over the next week or so.

